

Administrator Craig Feinberg of Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, on May 7, 2003, Mr. Feinberg confirmed that the amendment to claim 15 made in the Amendment dated December 7, 2000, i.e., rewriting claim 15 in independent form to overcome the indefiniteness rejection of base claim 13 and to incorporate the limitations of base claim 13 and intervening claim 14, has been entered.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 13, 14 and 24.

Please amend claims 16, 19, 20, 21 and 23 as set forth below:

16. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a sensing element for determining oxygen content in exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

blunting edges of a composite arrangement for use as the sensing element to increase a thermal shock resistance of the sensing element;

sintering the composite arrangement to yield the sensing element, the composite arrangement including at least one ceramic paste present in film form; and

introducing a profile into a stamping apparatus for pre-pressing a laminate construction of unsintered films of the composite arrangement.

19. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a sensing element for determining oxygen content in exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

blunting edges of a composite arrangement for use as the sensing element to increase a thermal shock resistance of the sensing element; and

sintering the composite arrangement to yield the sensing element, the composite arrangement including at least one ceramic paste present in film form;

wherein the step of blunting the edges of the composite arrangement further includes the step of blunting the edges of the composite arrangement using a laser treatment.

20. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a sensing element for determining oxygen content in exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

blunting edges of a composite arrangement for use as the sensing element to increase a thermal shock resistance of the sensing element; and

sintering the composite arrangement to yield the sensing element, the composite arrangement including at least one ceramic paste present in film form;

wherein the step of blunting includes the step of blunting the edges of the composite arrangement using an excimer laser having definable masking.

21. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a sensing element for determining oxygen content in exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

blunting edges of a composite arrangement for use as the sensing element to increase a thermal shock resistance of the sensing element; and

sintering the composite arrangement to yield the sensing element, the composite arrangement including at least one ceramic paste present in film form;

wherein the step of blunting includes the step of treating sectioned composite arrangements with a laser, the sectioned composite arrangements having a composition construction of green films.

23. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a sensing element for determining oxygen content in exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of: